15th March 1955]

" (b) Under the Madras Rice Mills Licensing Order, a licence fee of Rs. 24 per annum, is being levied for the issue of a licence to each rice mill and for its annual renewal. The Government are getting an income of about Rs. 1·4 lakhs per annum (roundly)."

Change of the period and season of north-east monsoon.

* 1341 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have received any report from the Geological department about the change of the period and season of north-east monsoon? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" A report entitled 'North-East Monsoon Rainfall of Tamil Nad—A study of 82 years data' was received from the Meteorological Centre, Madras, in 1952. The report states that there is no indication of a gradual change (secular change) in the season's rainfall."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" The north-east monsoon gives heavy rain only in the months of June and July and not in November and December as usual. The ryots are not able to know this change in time and are not able to get suitable strains for cultivation purposes. May I know what action the Government propose to take in this connexion, if they are aware of this change? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" The Government cannot change the course of the monsoon. For the hon. Member's information I may say that the north-east monsoon generally commences about the 10th of October and continues till the 25th of December, a period of 75 days. There are about 25 to 30 rainy days during that period in the coastal districts and 15 to 20 days in the interior districts. This phenomenon—I mean the drought—was felt this decade and it is not unusual. In the years 1870, 1875 and 1876 also, there was this. But there is no periodicity about it. It is just a freak of nature."

SRI K. UPPI :—" May I know whether this Government are responsible for the change in monsoon? " (Laughter.)

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Has the change in weather affected the political equilibrium of the Ministers also? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" It might have in Pudukkottai but not in our State." (Laughter.)

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" We wish to know whether there is any indication from the report that the usual monsoon is liable for variation in future years also? " 8-50 a.m.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" It is not likely from what the report says."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Apart from joking, this is a serious question. We do not expect the Government to change the course of monsoon. The object of the question is this. The north-east monsoon used to occur during special periods in the past. In the

past six years the north-east monsoon did not occur in those prescribed periods. It occurred in variation. But the peasants in the villages not having been posted with necessary information from the Meteorological department, have continued their usual methods of sowing the seeds in a particular period and expecting the north-east monsoon. They were disappointed sorely with the result a good harvest they anticipated in the usual course, failed. Have the Government taken any step to instruct such illiterate peasants that monsoon does not occur in the proper time and so they have to proceed with their sowing operations only when according to weather forecast the monsoon was likely to occur. Have the Government sufficiently broadcasted this and advertised it to the benefit of the villagers? That is the information which we request from Government.''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—'' Such variation has been very special and far between. It had happened some decades ago. Therefore, there is no reason to expect that the vagary would continue.''

DR. K. B. MENON :—'' Apart from variations on a wide scale over a long period, will the Government try to institute a weather service in the rural areas? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—'' The variation that I referred to was with reference to the continuous drought which we experienced previously, say for some six years. Such a thing happened some 70 years ago. So, it is a very rare phenomenon which had occurred two or three times in a century. The normal season is likely to prevail in future.''

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—'' May we know whether the report indicates increase or decrease in rainfall during these years? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—'' There is a slight decrease.''

Strikes in the States.

* 1342 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the number of strikes that took place in the State during the period August 1954 to December 1954?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' 86.''

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—'' சென்ற 5 மாதங்களில் 86 ஸ்ட்ரைக்குகள் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறதென்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். சாதாரணமாக முதலாளிகளுக்கும் தொழிலாளிகளுக்கும் தகராறு ஏற்பட்டால் அந்த கேஸ்களை கன்சிலியேஷன் போர்ட்டுக்கும் அப்பலேட் ட்ரிபுனலுக்கும் சமரசமாக அந்தத் தகராறுகளைத் தீர்ப்பதற்கு சட்ட பூர்வமாக இடமிருக்கிறது. அப்படியிருக்கும்போது சர்க்கார் போர்ட்டுக்கு அனுப்பாததினால்தான் இந்த ஸ்ட்ரைக் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்று சொல்ல முடியுமா ? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' அரசாங்கம் தொழிற் சங்கத்தின் போக்கைத் தெரிந்துக்கொண்டுதான் இருக்கிறது. தொழிலாளர்களின் தலைவர்களின் போக்கையும்தான் தெரிந்து